



*Ready for school, set for life!*



# VSUW

## A Proud Partner



### Quality First

*A signature program of  
First Things First*

QF Partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning across Arizona

- Knowledgeable teachers
- Nurturing environments
- Positive, consistent relationships



# Star Ratings



## Providers Receive Star Ratings



### Look for the Sign

Providers that display this sign are committed to improving the quality of care and education for the children they serve.

Quality First Marketing Tool-Kit



# Quality First Scholarships



Developed to provide  
access to high quality  
early child care and education  
for children living in low income  
households.



# VSUW QF Scholarships Team



Valley of the Sun United Way  
is the administrative home

We Provide:

- **Customer service**
  - Providers
  - Parents
- **Provider Training**
  - Determining Eligibility
  - Reporting
  - Policies
- **Payments**
- **Fiscal Monitoring**





# Services offered by VSUW



Ensure consistent application of the program and criteria through:

- Training & guidance visits
- Answering questions
  - Phone and email
- User friendly Family Application
- Policies and step by step “How to” procedures
- Provider Resources
  - Family size
  - Income calculation
  - Absenteeism



# Program in FY15



Today's presentation pertains to our current fiscal year, FY15.



# Cost of Quality



Family of 3 earning \$39,000  
- two children under 5 years of age

Cost of quality for a 3, 4, 5 star center  
\$11,300

(X 2 children) = \$22, 600  
Leaves \$16,400



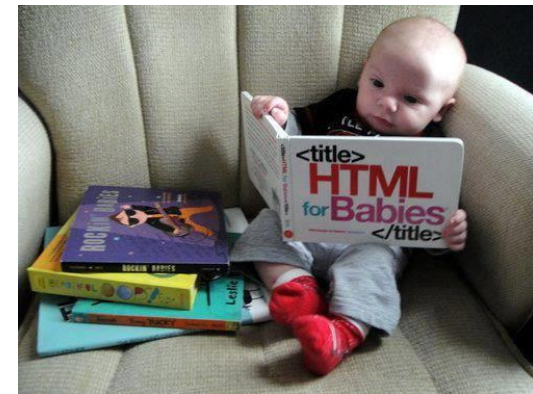
2014 Federal Poverty Levels (FPL) supplied by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services							
Family Size	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
200% of FPL	\$31,460	\$39,580	\$47,700	\$55,820	\$63,940	\$72,060	\$80,180



# By the numbers



Fiscal Year 2015:  
7,735 Scholarships  
Awarded to:  
816 Providers



# Number of Scholarships



## Base Model Allocation

	Large	Medium	Small	Home
2 Star	9	6	4	1
3 Star	12	9	6	2
4 Star	15	11	8	3
5 Star	17	12	9	4

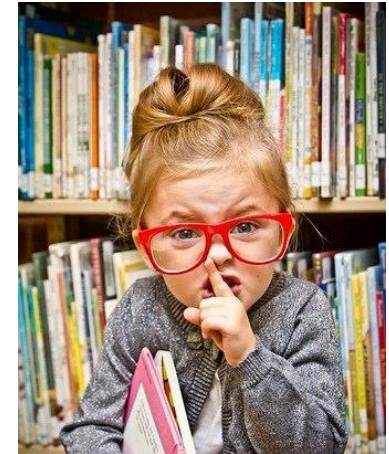


# Reimbursement Rate

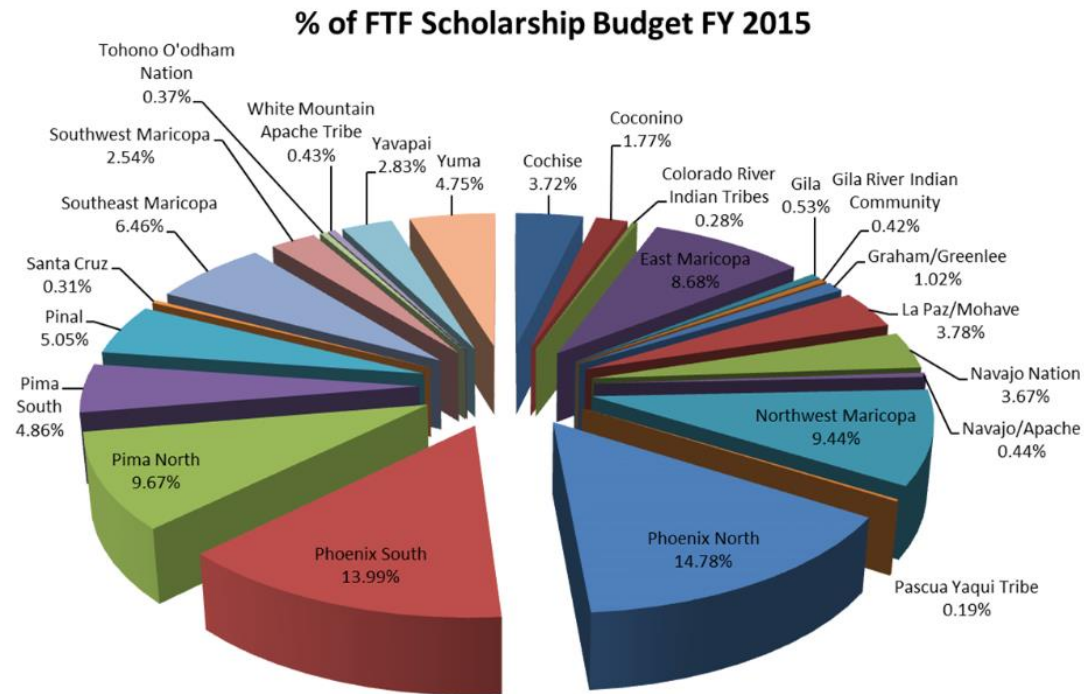


## Cost of Quality:

Type	Age	2 star	3 – 5 star
Center	0 – 2 Years	\$7,970.00	\$11,300.00
	3 – 5 Years	\$6,000.00	\$7,300.00
Home	0 – 2 Years	\$5,625.00	\$7,600.00
	3 – 5 Years	\$4,875.00	\$6,200.00



# Regional Focus



In FY15 there are 24 FTF Regions participating; providing nearly \$60 million

# Providers



- Our Providers include:
  - Homes
  - Centers
  - Schools
- Must be enrolled and in good standing with Quality First (QF)  
Star Rating Requirement:
  - FY15 - 2 star and above
  - FY 16 - 3 star and above
- Must be contracted with VSUW
  - New enrollments quarterly





# Scholarship Types



- Child Care
  - For any child ages 0-5, not yet enrolled in kindergarten
- Slots restricted to ages 3-5
  - Allocated in addition to base model slots
  - May not be used for underage children
- Teen Parent
  - Available in Central Maricopa and North Phoenix Regions
  - Parents apply directly to Teen Program administrator
- Navajo Nation
  - Available to Navajo Nation residents that are temporarily residing off the Navajo Nation to achieve an education
  - Parents apply directly to VSUW



# Scholarship Eligibility



To qualify:

- Family Application
  - Available online at <http://qualityfirstaz.com>
- Citizen/legal resident
- 0-5, not yet in kindergarten
- Income Eligibility + Household Size = < 200% of FPL



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Family Size	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
200% of FPL	\$31,460	\$39,580	\$47,700	\$55,820	\$63,940	\$72,060	\$80,180

# Webpage Resource



## Quality First Scholarships Reporting




Welcome back, admin. [Logout]

[New Provider](#) [Rate Report](#) [Site Messages](#) [Provider Search](#) [Policies and Procedures](#) [Settings](#)

Welcome to the Scholarships Policy and Procedure Information Page

We hope this webpage is a useful tool. Many of the documents are identified as "controlled documents" in the document footer. This means the information can be relied upon only when viewed here, online. Once printed, they become "uncontrolled" which means users must verify they are utilizing the most up to date version by logging into this webpage. When there is a significant change (something other than a typo or wording clarification) we will send Providers an email.

Please contact us with feedback or questions by phone, [1-866-973-0012](tel:1-866-973-0012), or email, [regionalscholarships@vswu.org](mailto:regionalscholarships@vswu.org)

<b>Policies and Procedures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Policies FY15</a></li><li><a href="#">How to Qualify a Family</a></li><li><a href="#">How to Report</a></li><li><a href="#">Common Errors &amp; Useful Tips for Reporting</a></li></ul>	<b>Tools and Worksheets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Manual Tools English &amp; Español (for those without Excel 2010 or later)</a></li><li><b>Excel Tools - for Excel 2010 and later</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Household Size Worksheet</a></li><li><a href="#">Income Qualification Worksheet</a></li></ul></li></ul>	<b>Provider Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Attendance Resources for Providers - English</a></li><li><a href="#">Attendance Resources for Providers - Español</a></li><li><a href="#">FTF Sample Extranet Scholarship Tab</a></li><li><a href="#">Quality First Marketing Toolkit</a></li><li><a href="#">Payment Calendar</a></li><li><a href="#">Training PowerPoint - English</a></li><li><a href="#">Training PowerPoint - Español</a></li></ul>	<b>Meet the team</b> 
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<b>Forms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Family Application - English</a></li><li><a href="#">Family Application - Español</a></li><li><a href="#">Provider Agreement</a></li><li><a href="#">ACH Form</a></li><li><a href="#">W-9 Form</a></li></ul>	<b>Training Resources</b> <p>Have you taken the training? <a href="#">Please take our survey</a> so we can verify your attendance and get your feedback. <a href="#">Watch our training video - English</a></p> <p>¿Ha tomado el entrenamiento? <a href="#">Por favor tome nuestra encuesta</a> para que podamos verificar su asistencia y recibir sus comentarios. <a href="#">Vea nuestro video de entrenamiento - Español</a></p>
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# Monthly Reporting



## Type of data collected:

- Child's Name
- Date of birth
- Part-time/Full-time
- Days Scheduled
- Days Attended
- Days Absent
- Hours Attended/"dosage"
- Family Size
- Family Gross Annual Income

Each child's payment is reviewed monthly during a "Quality Assurance," process and Providers are called regarding questions raised, incomplete or incorrect data, etc.



# Fiscal Monitoring



- 25% of Providers Annually, receive center visits by a Fiscal Monitoring Specialist
- Receive a report detailing findings and observations (if any)
  - **Observations** - matters of concern that need to be addressed. They do not affect the program financially; however internal files need to be updated
  - **Findings** - fiscal issues that need to be addressed and require a response by sending documentation to VSUW. These may affect the provider financially if not resolved





# Challenges & Opportunities



- Waiting list for Providers to join
- Not enough scholarships
- Evolving nature of the program
- Enough top quality centers in areas of greatest need
- Diminishing tobacco tax funding



# Find more information



Quality First Website: <http://qualityfirstaz.com/>

## LEARN MORE



## SEARCH FOR A PROVIDER

FIND **QUALITY FIRST**  PARTICIPANTS NEAR YOU



WANT MORE HELP FINDING CHILD CARE?

# Find more information



## ☒ SEARCH BY LOCATION

Search for Quality First participants within  miles of:

Address:

City:

Zip:

OR

## ☐ SEARCH BY PROVIDER NAME

Search

## TYPE OF CHILD CARE

- ☒ All  
☐ Home-based Provider  
☐ Group Center  
☐ Tribal

## AGE OF CHILD(REN)

Youngest  
child:

Oldest  
child:

## QUALITY FIRST STAR RATINGS

- ☒ All participating  
☐ Quality Levels (all 3, 4 and 5 stars)

## QUALITY FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS

- ☐ Show only programs that offer Quality First Scholarships

# Contact Info



## VSUW QF Scholarships Team

1515 East Osborn Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85014

Phone: 602-240-6325 or 1-866-973-0012

Fax: 602-240-6326

Email: [regionalscholarships@vsuw.org](mailto:regionalscholarships@vsuw.org)

### Additional Information:

Available at <http://qualityfirstaz.com>



# Panel QUESTIONS?

